

Amendments to the Drawing Figures:

The attached drawing sheets include proposed changes to FIG 1 and replace the original sheets including FIG 1, and add a new FIG 2.

Attachment: Replacement and New Sheets

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application, where claim 10 has been added by this amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-9 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Such amendments to claims 1-9 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

The Office Action indicates that a reference to prior Application No. PCT/IB03/50020 must be inserted as the first sentence of the specification. Applicant respectfully disagree and submit that the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d), which is properly claimed in the Declaration, and has been acknowledged on the Notice of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 and 37 CFR §1.495 mailed on November 6, 2003. As the claim of priority is not under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) or 35 U.S.C. §120, it is believed that there is no need for a specific reference in the first sentence of the specification. Further, the Patent Application Publication (PAP) of the present application, namely, PAP No. 2005/0260310 A1 correctly refers (on the cover page) to the International Application No. PCT/IB03/50020, and thus there is no need to include in the specification a reference to this International Application No. PCT/IB03/50020. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings because of lack of labels in the FIG and for not showing the features of claim 6. In response, labels have been added to FIG 1 and a new FIG 2 has been added. A replacement sheet including FIG 1 and a

new sheet included new FIG 2 are enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes and withdrawal of the drawing objection.

The Office Action objects to the specification for certain informalities. In response, the specification has been amended to remove the informalities noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1 and 4 for certain informalities. In response, claims 1 and 4 have been amended to remove the informalities noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 4 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for a certain informality. In response, claim 6 has been amended to remove the noted informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. 6,137,843 (Chennakeshu). Further, claims 1-9 are rejects under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. 7,058,146 (Paulraj). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 are patentable over Chennakeshu and Paulraj for at least the following reasons.

Chennakeshu shows in FIG 8 two pairs of channel estimators 811, 812, or 813, 814. As clearly shown in FIG 6, channel estimator 811 is connected to channel estimator 812 through a summer 801. Similarly, channel estimator 813 is connected to channel estimator 814 through another summer 802.

Paulraj shows in FIG 11 a single channel estimator in an oval between elements 128, 132.

It is respectfully submitted that Chennakeshu, Paulraj, and combination thereof, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 8 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein first estimating means in one branch is directly coupled to second estimating means in an other branch for using at least a part of the channel parameter estimate in the one branch as an aid for estimating at least a receiving channel parameter in the other branch.

Two estimators that are directly coupled to each other are nowhere disclosed or suggested in Chennakeshu and Paulraj, alone or in combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8 are allowable. In addition, claims 2-7 and 9 are allowable at least because they depend from independent claims 1 and 8, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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